

WILLIAM D. CONKLIN
155 COLLEGE AVENUE
POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y. 12603

September 14, 1985

President Roscoe C. Brown, Jr.
Bronx Community College
Bronx, N.Y. 10453

Dear President Brown:

A friend in Rochester, Minnesota, who formerly lived in Dansville, N.Y., as I did, sent me a copy of your New York Times letter on the Hall of Fame.

He knew it would interest me for its contents, but your name increased its interest. When I attended the University of Rochester (1908-12), Roscoe E. Brown was recognized as one of its distinguished alumni. I used to see him at Alpha Delta Phi gatherings. Once we were on the same train, headed for New York. Surprisingly he recognized me, and we had quite a chat. I assume that you are his son (or grandson?).

In 1912-13 I attended Columbia University's School of Journalism, where, years later, Roscoe Brown, Sr. was a professor. After World War I I was in Dansville on the editorial staff of F.A. Owen Publishing Company, (educational publishers) until I retired in 1960. Continuing to live in Dansville until 1983, I was a volunteer in several organizations, including Clara Barton Chapter No. 1, American Red Cross, established in 1881 with Miss Barton's aid as the Dansville Society of the Red Cross.

In recent years I aided the Chapter, with others, to gain Miss Barton's recognition by the Hall of Fame for Great Americans. (You will find ^{her} name listed in the 1976 group). However, funds were not available for the bust and ceremony that would have placed her in the colonade at what was then New York University.

I do not have at hand a recent World Almanac which would list the five or more elected since then. I hope you will add Miss Barton's name to the group you mention.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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I am not sure that a "head" such as was recently sculpted by an artist and sent to Clara Barton Chapter would meet the need for a "bust" but it seems worth while to suggest the possibility. A casting could doubtless be obtained at relatively small cost, because of the artist's interest in his subject. I'm enclosing Xerox copies made at Vassar College by my sister, Ruth E. Conklin, Emerita Professor there; she has also kindly typed the letter. Use of a machine is difficult for me now. Two of the copies are of photos and text that appeared in the Genesee Country Express of Dansville.

In 1959 I compiled Clara Barton and Dansville, a hard-bound book of over 300 pages, with illustrations. It was privately printed. Since I had financed it and would be largely responsible for its gratuitous distribution, I preferred it to be anonymous. Through interlibrary loans you might, if you cared to, borrow a copy from the Rochester Public Library, 115 South Avenue (14604) or the Dansville Public Library (14437).

I shall be glad to pass on to Clara Barton Chapter any encouragement you can give; also to contribute towards the cost of a casting.

Sincerely yours,

William D. Conklin

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P.S. Louis H. Anderson, who sent me the Times clipping, served as Chairman of Clara Barton Chapter in the 50th anniversary year, 1931, and until 1934.

WDC/REC